

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10

RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /246 W

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R 190002Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2370

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC, US, AS

SUBJ: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 RENEGOTIATIONS WITH EC

REF: STATE 007457

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL EMBOFFS MET WITH GEOFF HALL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANISATIONS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OVERSEAS TRADE AND PROVIDED HIM WITH COPY OF U.S. AIDE-MEMOIRE TO EC.

2. HALL OBSERVED THAT GOA MADE ITS OWN PROPOSAL IN JULY 1973 WHICH BY IMPLICATION TURNED DOWN BY EC DEC. 13 COUNTER-OFFER. GOA REGARDED EC OFFER AS MINIMAL BUT WAS STILL PONDERING QUESTION OF WHAT IT COULD OR SHOULD NOW RESPOND, AND WAS UNCERTAIN HOW IT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO PRESSURE ON ECA. GOA MIGHT , HALL SPECULATED, ASK EC TO JUSTIFY ITS DEC. 13 COUNTER-OFFER BUT THIS SUGGESTION MADE WITHOUT MUCH CONVICTION.

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3. BASIC REASON FOR GOA HESITATION APPEARS TO BE NERVOUSNESS RE LEGALITY OF AUSTRALIAN POSITION AS NEGOTIATOR RESPECTING CONCESSIONS TO BE WITHDRAWN. IN MOST CASES AUSTRALIA'S POSITION AS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER (AND THEREFORE EQUIVALENT TO INITIAL NEGOTIATOR) RESTS ON TRADE WHICH ACTUALLY MOVED AT BRITISH PREFERENTIAL RATE RATHER THAN CONCESSION RATE. TO DATE EC HAS NOT CHALLENGED GOA STATUS ON THIS BASIS BUT GOA CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY OF SUCH CHALLENGE. ADDITIONALLY, AUSTRALIAN "CLOUT" IS LIMITED BY THIN SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE TO BE WITHDRAWN IF MATTERS REACH THAT POINT.

4. HALL CHARACTERIZED PRESENT U.S. APPROACH TO EC AS A "BOLD MOVE" BUT COMMENDABLE AND PROBABLY THE RIGHT TACTICAL STEP. HE POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN POSITION DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF U.S., GOA JULY REQUEST LIST PARALLELED LATEST U.S. LIST WITH RESPECT TO SEVERAL ITEMS SUCH AS CANNED AND DRIED FRUITS, FOR EXAMPLE. MOREOVER, GOA REQUESTED DEEPER CUTS ON SOME OF THESE ITEM THAN U.S.

5. GOA WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF POSSIBLE ON 3 ASPECTS U.S. APPROACH TO EC:

(A) WHAT IS DETAILED BASIS FOR TIMETABLE INDICATED IN AIDE-MEMOIRE AND TO WHAT EXTENT IS IT TIED TO SCHEDULE U.S. TRADE BILL?

(B) WHAT IS SIGNIFICANCE AND CONTEXT OF PARAGRAPH 1 IN SECTION A OF AIDE-MEMOIRE?

(C) ALSO ON CEREALS, DOES U.S. VISUALIZE POSSIBILITY THAT CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS "FOR SETTLEMENT OF ITS CLAIMS ON CEREALS" (PARA A) WOULD BE FOLDED INTO LARGER CLAIMS UNDER MTN OR WOULD XXIV:6 CLAIMS BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM MTN?

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH DOT ON THIS ISSUE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR MORE DETAILED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSE ON THESE QUESTIONS.
HARROP

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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